



The President's Daily Brief

April 19, 1976

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~~Top Secret~~ 25X1

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LEBANON: *Lebanese
leftist leader Kamal
Jumblatt and Phalanges
Party chief Pierre Ju-
mayyil over the week-
end gave their general
approval to the Syrian-
Palestinian agreement
on Lebanon announced
late last week.*

Jumblatt is supporting the basi-
cally pro-Syria accord primarily
because he has no realistic alter-
native. The large fedayeen groups
that provide the bulk of his arms
and fighting men are--for the mo-
ment, at least--cooperating with
Damascus.

The Lebanese leftists and Pales-
tinians apparently did elicit some
concessions from Syria, probably
including an agreement to withdraw
some Syrian forces from Lebanon
and ease the blockade of supplies
to the left.

We have no evidence to confirm
press reports that significant num-
bers of Syrian forces have with-
drawn from Lebanon. We doubt that
Damascus will withdraw large num-
bers of troops until significant
political progress has been made
in Beirut.

Important Christian leaders are
taking special care to make as
few concessions as possible until
agreement has been reached on a
successor to President Franjiah.
Franjiah yesterday still had not
delivered to the speaker of par-
liament a signed copy of the con-
stitutional amendment that would
permit a new presidential election.
He must do this before an election
can be held.

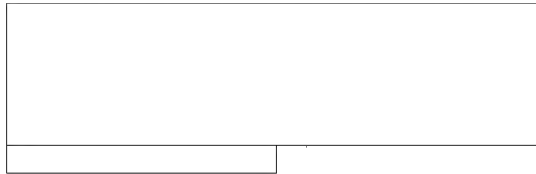
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CHINA: Yeh Chien-ying, a leading moderate and the only major figure who had not made a public appearance since the ouster of Teng Hsiao-ping, attended a diplomatic reception in Peking on Saturday. His reappearance is a further indication that moderates as a group have come through the anti-Teng campaign relatively unscathed.

Yeh left his post as defense minister in protest last January when Teng Hsiao-ping was not named premier. A document issued by Peking claimed that Yeh was "ill" and that his duties were being performed by the Peking Military Region commander. 25X1



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Defense ministry spokesmen, however, have repeatedly denied any changes in the leadership of the ministry--suggesting that the portfolio was held for Yeh during his period of protest.

Yeh reportedly has spent the last few months in south China. It seems unlikely that he would have returned to Peking if he had actually lost his job as defense minister.

Reports of Yeh's attendance at the reception did not identify him as minister of defense. Although this failure to identify him by that title is not unusual, it could mean that the job is still subject to bargaining.

Yeh's return to public view makes the non-appearance of party leftists--the leaders in the anti-Teng campaign--all the more conspicuous. None has appeared since the demonstrations on April 5.

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NOTES

Angolan President Agostinho Neto may visit the Soviet Union later this month.

If the visit materializes, Neto will probably ask for continued Soviet military assistance. He is unlikely, however, to give Moscow an opportunity to establish a major military presence in Angola.

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Luanda shows signs of wanting to follow a non-aligned foreign policy.

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